

B-3700

88

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Motor Vessel Bancroft

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Fell's Point

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

CODE
24

COUNTY

Baltimore City

CODE

510

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☒ OBJECT
Boat

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES RESTRICTED
☐ YES UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☒ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

H. Roland Read

STREET & NUMBER

1906 Aliceanna Street, Fell's Point

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

21231

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Vessel Documentation Office

STREET & NUMBER

Department of Transportation, U. S. Coast Guard

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ F

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The motor vessel Bancroft is a glass-cabin launch built in 1925 by the City of Baltimore. She is a documented work vessel of five net tons, licensed to carry six or less passengers for hire in the coasting trade. She has a registered length of 28.7 feet, her beam is 8.6 feet, and her draft is 2.6 feet. This vessel strongly resembles older steam launches in hull form. The hull has a moderate sheer, a straight keel with some drag, a rounded forefoot with nearly straight and upright stem rabbet, upright stern post, and thin modified elliptical transom of moderate overhang. Her mid-section is formed with short rise floor on round bilges, and she has upright topsides. The trunk cabin is long and high with large rectangular drop windows. The hull is constructed of fir planking, copper sheathed, with oak frames. All repairs have been made in the original style. The vessel is gas-screw driven and was originally powered with a Palmer 2-cylinder reciprocating engine, which was replaced with a Chris-Craft 6-cylinder L-head engine in 1956.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
500	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
600-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1925 BUILDER/ARCHITECT _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The motor vessel Bancroft is a glass-cabin launch built in 1925 by Baltimore City's Bureau of Harbors under the supervision of Bancroft Hall, Harbor Engineer. From the 1890s through the 1940s vessels of her design were used as water taxis, crew boats, light freight handlers, pilot boats, delivery craft for ship chandlers, etc. They were prevalent in servicing commercial vessels until after World War II, when boats with planing hulls, larger engines, and faster speeds replaced them. (Chappelle, National Watercraft Collection.) The Bancroft, once of many, is today one of only a few examples of this type, on the East Coast.

The Bancroft was used continually for pier inspection by the City of Baltimore harbor engineer until 1966, when the Baltimore Harbor Bureau was merged into the Maryland Port Authority. Subsequently she was auctioned as surplus property and privately purchased. She is presently licensed to carry six or less passengers in the coasting trade.

Launches like the Bancroft strongly resemble the older steam launch in hull form and are well suited for hot weather cruising in protective waters or where shelter can be quickly reached, such as the Chesapeake Bay. There are half-models in the Smithsonian Institution collection with hull designs similar to the Bancroft's. The Chesapeake Maritime Museum in St. Michaels, Maryland has the hull of a vessel that closely resembles the Bancroft on exhibit; however, it is not operative.

The future of the Bancroft depends on her owner's success in securing a maritime grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation under the Maritime Heritage Preservation Grant Program. She could be used as a water taxi between Fell's Point and the Baltimore Inner Harbor after restoration.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Brewington, M.V., Chesapeake Bay, A Pictorial Maritime History, 1953.
Bodine, A. Audrey, Chesapeake Bay and Tidewater, rev. ed., 1967
Bodine, A. Audrey, Bodine's Baltimore, 1973.
Chapelle, Howard, I., The National Watercraft Collection, 1960.
U.S.C.G., Merchant Vessels of the U.S., CG-408, Dept. of Trans., 1977.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY N/AQUADRANGLE NAME Baltimore East QuadrangleQUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 362710 4349020

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C E G B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D F H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

N/A

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

H. Roland Read, Owner and Captain M/V BANCROFT

ORGANIZATION

DATE

March 12, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1906 Aliceanna Street(301) 342-9386

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

BaltimoreMaryland 21231**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE XLOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

M. R. Read 1-2-80

TITLE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

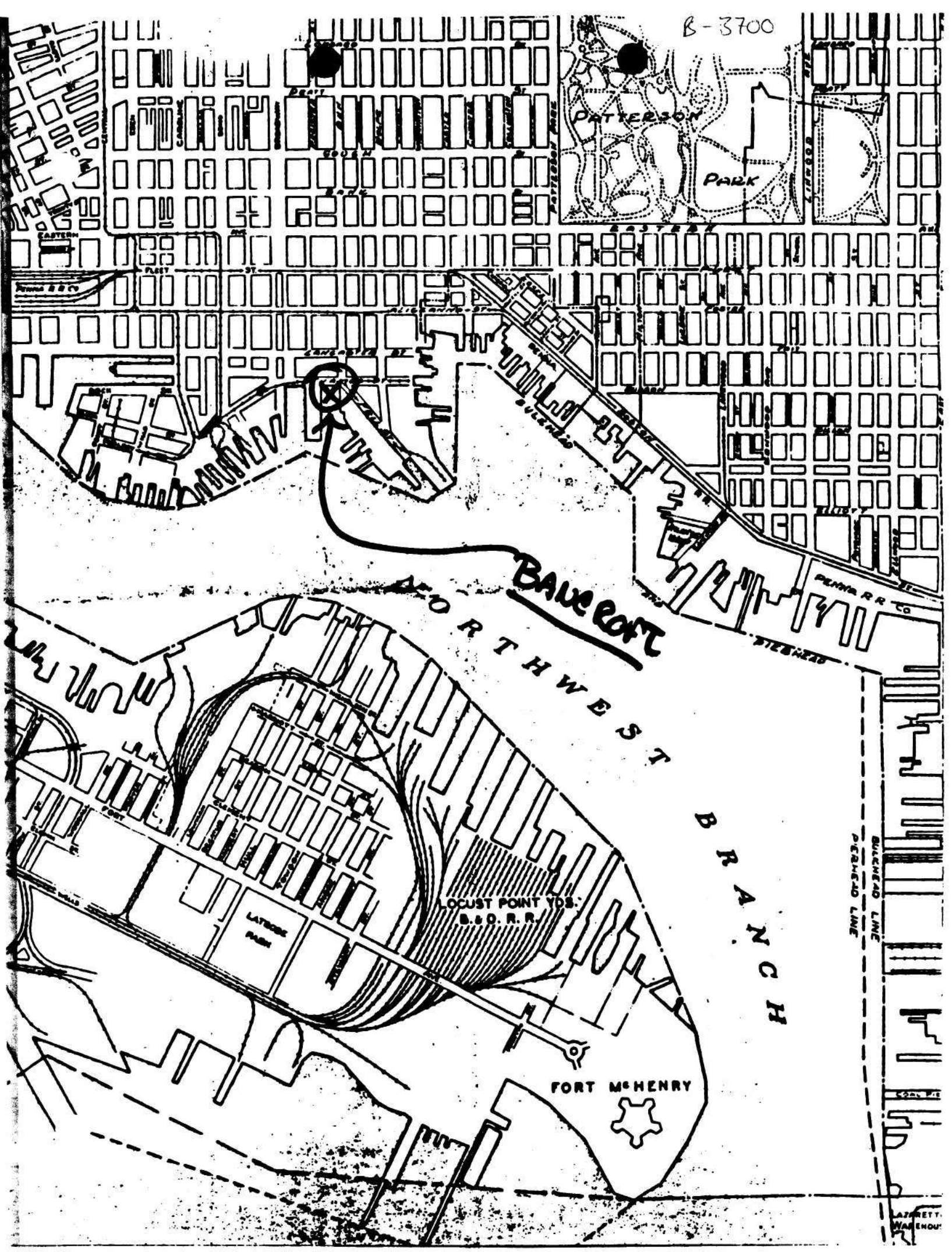
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

B-3700



PATTERSON

PARK

BALELOFT

NORTHWEST

BRANCH

LOCUST POINT YDS.
B. & O. R. R.

FORT McHENRY

BUTCHER LINE
PERMITS LINE

LAZARETT
WAREHOUSE



Motor Vessel Bancroft
Baltimore City, Maryland
Roland Read, 1973
Neg. located at Fells Point, Baltimore

B-3700

BANCROFT, Baltimore, Md. Roland Read, 1973



Motor Vessel Bancroft
Baltimore City, Maryland
Roland Read, 1973
Neg. located at Fells Point, Baltimore

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BANCROFT, Baltimore, Maryland, Roland Read, 1973